

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Inventor Nick Nassiri (hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant") is in receipt of the Examiner's Detailed Action dated February 10th, 2005 with respect to the above named patent application. Applicant wishes to address each of the Examiner's objections as put forth in the Detailed Action.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS TO CORRECT INFORMALITIES

Applicant addresses Examiner's concerns regarding claim informalities as put forth in pages 2 through 4 of the first Office Action response. Applicant hereby amends the pending application to correct the following informalities:

- (i) Applicant inserts a comma after citing independent claim number in line 1 of claims 2-14, 16-28, and 30.
- (ii) Applicant submits that Claim 1 recites "Client" in line 16, Applicant replaces with "client".
- (iii) Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 15 recite "the means" in line 19. Applicant replaces with "a means".
- (iv) Applicant submits that claims 2, 16, and 30 recite "internet" in line 4. Applicant replaces with replacing with "Internet".

(v) Applicant submits that claims 3, 17, and 31 recite "the means" in line 4. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(vi) Applicant submits that claims 3, 17, and 31 recite "said submission date data, said delivery date data" in lines 6-7. Applicant replaces with "said sent date data, said received date data" in order for the terminology to remain consistent.

(vii) Applicant submits that claims 6, 20, and 34 recite, "said return receipt email, said email submission confirmation, and said email delivery confirmation" in lines 2-3. Applicant replaces with "said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation" in order for the terminology to remain consistent.

(viii) Applicant submits that claims 8 and 22 recite "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(ix) Applicant submits that claims 9, 23, and 40 recite "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(x) Applicant submits that claims 10, 24, and 41 recite "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xi) Applicant submits that claims 11, 26, and 42 recite "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xii) Applicant submits that claims 14 and 45 recite "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xiii) Applicant submits claim 25 recites "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xiv) Applicant submits that claim 29 recites "the means" in lines 5 and 6. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xv) Applicant submits that claim 35 recites "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xvi) Applicant submits claim 36 recites "the means" in lines 2 and 3. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xvii) Applicant submits claim 39 recites "the means" in line 2. Applicant replaces with "a means".

(xviii) Applicant submits that claim 39 recites "verification services and to submit" in line 2, Applicant replaces with "verification services, and to submit".

The above referenced amendments due to informalities have been made to the specification and claims, as depicted below, to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections should be withdrawn; said amendments being in accordance with the Examiner's directive.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicant notes Examiner's objections with respect to U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicant amends its claims to reflect the following amendments:

(i) In reference to claims 1, 15, and 29 which currently read the phrase "system and method", in lines 1 and 5 of the aforementioned claims, Applicant replaces with "the method".

(ii) In reference to claims 7, 21, and 38 which currently the phrase "electronic message further comprises varied electronic data, including text data, audio data, visual data, video data, electronic data, and electronic attachments". Applicant replaces with "electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, video data, electronic data or an electronic attachment."

(iii) In reference to claims 12 and 43 which recite the limitation "The system" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant replaces with "The method".

(iv) In reference to claim 37, which currently reads the phrase "biometric information such as a thumbprint, voiceprint, retinal scan, a graphical, hand written signature". Applicant replaces with "or biometric information including one of a group of a thumbprint, a voiceprint, a retinal scan, or a graphical, hand written signature".

(v) Regarding claim 37, which currently reads "or personal identity papers such as a drivers license, a passport, and the like". Applicant replaces with the phrase "or personal identity papers, or a drivers license, or a passport".

Claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 21, 29, 37, 38, and 43 were rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In lieu of the aforementioned amendments to overcome the Examiner's objections, Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant submits that claims 1, 7, 12, 15, 21, 29, 37, 38, and 43, as amended, are not indefinite, and that this rejection be withdrawn; said amendments being in accordance with the Examiner's directive.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

Applicant hereby submits the amended claims to reflect the foregoing noted informalities per the claim objections, and the rejections raised pursuant to U.S.C. § 112. The amended claims supersede and replace the existing claims currently on file.

1. (Amended) ~~A system and method~~ The method for registering and certifying an electronic message, said ~~system and method~~ further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, ~~the means~~ a means to register said electronic message, the ~~system and method~~ comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said ~~Client~~ client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the ~~internet~~ Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol based network connectivity.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising ~~the means~~ a means to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, ~~said submission date data, said delivery date data, said sent date data, said received date data,~~ and said confirmation record data.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said registration account data further comprises said client's name, said client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's email address, and the email delivery services requested by said client.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.
6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said registered email, said certified email, ~~said return receipt email, said email submission confirmation, and said email delivery confirmation~~

said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said ~~electronic message further comprises varied electronic data, including text data, audio data, visual data, video data, electronic data, and electronic attachments~~ electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic attachment.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said website further comprises ~~the means a~~ means for said client to select said delivery services and to submit said electronic message in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said client in said registration account.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to notify said client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended

recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

12. (Amended) ~~The system~~ The method of claim 11, whereby said processing unit compiles the submission and delivery confirmation data into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means whereby a copy of said electronic message is archived and stored for future use and retrieval.

15. (Amended) ~~A system and method~~ The method for registering and certifying an electronic message, said ~~system and method~~ further comprising an anonymous client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, ~~the means~~ a means to register said electronic message, the system and method comprising the steps of: said anonymous client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said anonymous client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said anonymous client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said anonymous client in said registration

account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit notifying said intended recipient that said electronic message has been sent on behalf of said anonymous client; said intended recipient choosing to post a reply for said client; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said reply posted for said anonymous client; said processing unit sending said anonymous client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the ~~internet~~ Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol based network connectivity.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising ~~the means~~ a means ns to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, ~~said submission date data, said delivery date data~~ said sent date data, said received date data, and said confirmation record data.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said registration account data further comprises said anonymous client's name, said anonymous client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's email address, and the email delivery services requested by said anonymous client.

19. (Amended) The system of claim 18, whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said anonymous client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 18, whereby said registered email, said certified email, ~~said return receipt email, said email submission confirmation, and said email delivery confirmation~~ said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 15, ~~whereby said electronic message further comprises varied electronic data, including text data, audio data, visual data, video data, electronic data, and electronic attachments~~ electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic attachment.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 15, whereby said website further comprises ~~the means a~~ means for said anonymous client to select said delivery services and to submit said electronic

message in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 15₁ whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said anonymous client in said registration account.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 15₁ whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 15₁ whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means for said intended recipient to post said reply for said anonymous client.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 15₁ whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means to notify said anonymous client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 15₁ whereby said processing unit compiles said submission confirmation, and said delivery confirmation data, and said reply posted by said intended recipient, into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 15, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

29. (Amended) ~~A system and method~~ The method for verifying the identity of the intended recipient of a registered or certified electronic message, said system and method further comprising a client, said intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, ~~the means~~ a means to verify said identity of said intended recipient, ~~the means~~ a means to register said electronic message, the ~~system and method~~ comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit notifying said intended recipient that said processing unit is holding said electronic message pending verification of said identity of said intended recipient; obtaining verification information of said identity of said intended recipient; said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said ~~Client~~ client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said verification information of said identity; said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email

database.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29₁ wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the ~~internet~~ Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol based network connectivity.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 29₁ wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising the means a means to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, said ~~submission date data, said delivery date data~~ said sent date data, said received date data, said verification information data, and said confirmation record data.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 29₁ wherein said registration account data further comprises said client's name, said client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's email address, and the email delivery services requested by said client.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 29₁ whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 33₁ whereby said registered email, said certified email,

~~said return receipt email, said email submission confirmation, and said email delivery confirmation~~
said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation
are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message, and said verification information of said identity of said intended recipient.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means to notify said intended recipient that said processing unit is holding said electronic message pending confirmation of said verification information.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises the ~~means~~ a means to notify said intended recipient what said verification information comprises, and the means for said intended recipient to submit said verification information to said processing unit.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said verification information further comprises a digital certificate, ~~biometric information such as a thumbprint, voiceprint, retinal scan,~~
~~a graphical, hand-written signature or biometric information including one of the group of a~~
thumbprint, a voiceprint, a retinal scan or a graphical, hand-written signature, or personal identity
~~papers such as a drivers license, a passport, and the like~~ or a personal identity paper, or a drivers
license or a passport.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said ~~electronic message further comprises~~
~~varied electronic data, including text data, audio data, visual data, video data, electronic data, and~~
~~electronic attachments~~ electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group

including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic attachment.

39. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said website further comprises ~~the means a~~ means for said client to select said identity ~~verification services and to submit~~ verification services, ~~and to submit~~ said electronic message in conjunction with said verification services and in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said client in said registration account.

41. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises ~~the means a means~~ to notify said client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

43. (Amended) ~~The system~~ The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit compiles the submission and delivery confirmation data into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises the means a means whereby a copy of said electronic message is archived and stored for future use and retrieval.

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CLAIMS INCORPORATING SAID AMENDMENTS

Applicant submits the amended claims read as follow:

1. The method for registering and certifying an electronic message, said method further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, a means to register said electronic message, said method comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet

Protocol based network connectivity.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising a means to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, said sent date data, said received date data , and said confirmation record data.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said registration account data further comprises said client's name, said client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's email address, and the email delivery services requested by said client.
5. The method of claim 1, whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.
6. The method of claim 1, whereby said registered email, said certified email, said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message.
7. The method of claim 1, whereby said electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic

attachment.

8. The method of claim 1, whereby said website further comprises a means for said client to select said delivery services and to submit said electronic message in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

9. The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said client in said registration account.

10. The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

11. The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to notify said client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

12. The method of claim 11, whereby said processing unit compiles the submission and delivery confirmation data into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

13. The method of claim 12, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

14. The method of claim 1, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means whereby a copy of said electronic message is archived and stored for future use and retrieval.

15. The method for registering and certifying an electronic message, said method further comprising an anonymous client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, a means to register said electronic message, said method comprising the steps of: said anonymous client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said anonymous client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said anonymous client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said anonymous client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit notifying said intended recipient that said electronic message has been sent on behalf of said anonymous client; said intended recipient choosing to post a reply for said client; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said reply posted for said anonymous client; said processing unit sending said anonymous client a copy

of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol based network connectivity.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising a means to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, said sent date data, said received date data, and said confirmation record data.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said registration account data further comprises said anonymous client's name, said anonymous client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's email address, and the email delivery services requested by said anonymous client.

19. The system of claim 18, whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said anonymous client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.

20. The method of claim 18, whereby said registered email, said certified email, said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message.

21. The method of claim 15, whereby said electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic attachment.

22. The method of claim 15, whereby said website further comprises a means for said anonymous client to select said delivery services and to submit said electronic message in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

23. The method of claim 15, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said anonymous client in said registration account.

24. The method of claim 15, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

25. The method of claim 15, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means for said intended recipient to post said reply for said anonymous client.

26. The method of claim 15, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to notify said anonymous client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

27. The method of claim 15, whereby said processing unit compiles said submission confirmation, and said delivery confirmation data, and said reply posted by said intended recipient, into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

28. The method of claim 15, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

29. The method for verifying the identity of the intended recipient of a registered or certified electronic message, said method further comprising a client, said intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, a means to verify said identity of said intended recipient, the means to register said electronic message, said method comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit notifying said intended recipient that said processing unit is holding said electronic message pending verification of said identity of said intended recipient; obtaining verification information of said identity of said intended recipient;

said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said verification information of said identity; said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said local computer system may be a remote fixed device or a remote portable device; whereby either said remote fixed device or said remote portable device access said website using the Internet or other Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol based network connectivity.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said processing unit further comprises said email database; said email database further comprising an information storage system; said information storage system further comprising a means to store data; said data further comprising said registration account data, said electronic message data, said sent date data, said received date data, said verification information data, and said confirmation record data.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein said registration account data further comprises said client's name, said client's email address, said intended recipient's name, said intended recipient's

email address, and the email delivery services requested by said client.

33. The method of claim 29, whereby said email delivery services comprise said processing unit sending said electronic message from said client in the form of a registered email, or a certified email, or a return receipt email, or an email submission confirmation or an email delivery confirmation.

34. The method of claim 33, whereby said registered email, said certified email, said confirmation record email, said email sent confirmation, and said email received confirmation are further comprised of said registration account data and said electronic message, and said verification information of said identity of said intended recipient.

35. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to notify said intended recipient that said processing unit is holding said electronic message pending confirmation of said verification information.

36. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to notify said intended recipient what said verification information comprises, and the means for said intended recipient to submit said verification information to said processing unit.

37. The method of claim 29, whereby said verification information further comprises a digital certificate, or biometric information including one of the group of a thumbprint, a voiceprint, a retinal scan or a graphical, hand-written signature, or a personal identity paper, or a drivers license

or a passport.

38. The method of claim 29, whereby said electronic message comprises at least one electronic data from the group including text data, audio data, visual data, electronic data, or an electronic attachment.

39. The method of claim 29, whereby said website further comprises a means for said client to select said identity verification services, and to submit said electronic message in conjunction with said verification services and in conjunction with said delivery services to said processing unit from said local computer system.

40. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to receive said electronic message from said local computer system and to send said electronic message to said intended recipient in accordance with said delivery services selected by said client in said registration account.

41. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to determine when said electronic message has been sent to said intended recipient and when said intended recipient has received said electronic message.

42. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means to notify said client of when said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient and when said electronic message was received by said intended recipient.

43. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit compiles the submission and delivery confirmation data into said confirmation record; said confirmation record further comprising said registration account data.

44. The method of claim 29, whereby said confirmation record is in the form of a digital certificate that is emailed to said client.

45. The method of claim 29, whereby said processing unit further comprises a means whereby a copy of said electronic message is archived and stored for future use and retrieval.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

OBVIOUSNESS

Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 and 14-27 of the pending application as being unpatentable over US Application 2002/0129108 (hereinafter referred to as "Sykes") in view of US Patent 6,591,121 (hereinafter referred to as "Gabber").

Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner's position is traversed in lieu of a careful analysis of the differences in method between the application at hand and the prior art. A detailed analysis reveals that the application at hand has novel and unique utilities not revealed by the prior art nor anticipated by the prior art.

Moreover, Applicant further submits that many of Examiner's arguments have been rendered moot with respect to the Sykes application; said application Sykes application now comprising three independent claims and eleven dependent claims. (Agent for the Sykes publication has canceled claims 2-4, 6-12, and 23-30).

Per the phone discussions dated July 25th and 26th respectively, Applicant's representative and Examiner discussed the fact that the Sykes publication has largely been rejected by the Examiner prosecuting Sykes (Nghi V. Tan). As stated, the Sykes patent has been reduced to three independent claims and eleven dependent claims. After consulting with the primary Examiner, Examiner Nash stated that if the Sykes claim rejections were based on the disclosure; said rejections would be valid and stand. Said Sykes rejections were based on the disclosure.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending application is not barred by some the arguments raised in the first Office Action as it pertains to Sykes, with the exception of the remaining claims pending in the Sykes application.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant reiterates the pending Sykes claims in their entirety¹:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a verifiable email message, the method comprising:

addressing the email to a third party, either as an addressee or a copy, which third party who will index the email message according to at least one of sender, date, recipient, and subject, and which third party stores an exact copy of the email message for a least a period of time specified by the sender for the purpose of archiving the sender's email message, wherein the third party sends an acknowledgement of the email message it has received to the sender and at least one addressee notifying the addressee that the email message is waiting for the intended recipient at the third party's internet website.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein upon request, the third party makes a printed copy of the stored email message, and provides a written verification that it is an exact copy of the email message as received from the recipient.

¹ Said amended claims being filed with the USPTO on 7-14-2005 by the agent for Sykes along with a RCE.

6.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 12 further comprising~~ A method of providing email verification of an email sent by a sender to a recipient, the method comprising:

receiving a copy of an email as an addressee;

indexing the email according to at least one of sender, recipient, date, or subject matter; and

storing an exact copy of the email as received for at least a period of time specified by the sender'[sic] user profile, and

alerting the sender that the archived email is about to be deleted prior to its deletion, such that the sender may extend and extending the time period for storing the message for a fee.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 13 wherein the sender is charged based on the size of the email and the duration of storage.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein a credit card or debit card of the sender is automatically debited for services.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the sender is advised of charges via email and can settle an account via the internet.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the sender is sent a statement of charges incurred.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of secure electronic communication comprising: transmitting to a third party via a secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection a message and the email address of at least one intended recipient of the message, the third party storing an exact copy of the email message for a time period specified by the sender, and sending an email message to the intended recipient indicating that a message is waiting for the intended recipient via a secure Internet ~~internet~~ website ~~via a secure website of a third party, transmitting of the third party, wherein the recipient must log onto the third party's Internet website with a password to establish a secure Internet connection with the third party, and the third party~~ transmits the message to the intended recipient who establishes a secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection with the third party, and ~~[[sending]]~~ sends an email to the sender when the message has been transmitted to the intended recipient.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein the secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection between the sender and the third party is an SSL connection.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein the secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection between the at least one intended recipient and the third party is SSL connection.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein the email message to the at least one intended recipient includes instructions on how to establish a secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection to receive the message.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein the email message includes at least a URL to establish the secure Internet ~~internet~~ connection.

23.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The method according to claim 18 wherein the intended recipient enters a valid username and password to log onto the third party's website, and clicks on an inbox to initiate delivery of the message waiting for the intended recipient.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31 further comprising alerting the sender that the copy of the email message that was stored for a time period specified by the sender is about to be deleted if the sender does not extend the time period, and extending the time period for storing the copy of the message for a fee.

Having listed the remaining Sykes' claims currently pending before the USPTO, Applicant wishes to address the substantive arguments put forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the basis of obviousness; addressing the arguments that have not been rendered moot by the rejection/cancellation of Sykes' claims 2-4, 6-12, and 23-30. Applicant submits that Sykes' claims 31 and 32 are not at issue because the Examiner did not include them in her first Office Action.

U.S.C. § 103 ANALYSIS

Examiner submits that claims 1-12, and 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sykes, Jr. (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0129108), in view of Gabber et al. Applicant respectfully traverses.

CLAIM 1 IN VIEW OF SYKES

In reference to claim 1 of the pending application Examiner objects, citing Sykes discloses a method and system for archiving, registering, and verifying electronic communications transmitted between clients and recipients via a network (i.e. Internet), (abstract and paragraph [0004], lines 1-13).

Examiner states that Sykes discloses the third party archiving and verification system to comprise:

- A system and method for registering and certifying an electronic message, the system and method further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a website (i.e. third party archiving and verification website, Figures 4-22), a processing unit (i.e. third party archiving and verification server), an email database, a means (i.e. third party archiving and verification provider) to register the electronic message, the system and method, (abstract; paragraph [0004], lines 1-13; and paragraph [0038], line 1 to paragraph [0040], line 17), comprising the steps of:

- * The client accessing the website and establishing a registration account; the processing unit assigning a code (i.e. account ID) to the registration account of the client, (paragraph [0048], line 1 to paragraph [0049], line 16 and Figure 4); and
- * The processing unit receiving the electronic message, the electronic message being from the client; the processing unit storing information about the electronic message and the registration account in the email database; the processing unit resending the electronic message to the intended recipient as identified by the Client in the registration account; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was sent by the processing unit; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit creating a confirmation record (i.e. message table entry) that comprises the date the electronic message was sent and the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit sending the client a copy of the confirmation record (Figure 26); and the processing unit storing information about the confirmation record and the registration account in the email database, (paragraph [0038], line 1 to [0047], line 12; paragraph [0059], line 1 to paragraph [0061], line 8; and paragraph [0065], lines 9-13).

Applicant respectfully traverses. As noted above, Sykes pending application discloses the following prior art²:

² Per the 7-14-2005 submission to the USPTO by Sykes agent.

A method of sending a **verifiable email message**, the method comprising:
addressing the email to a third party, either as an addressee or a copy, which third party will index the email message according to at least one of sender, date, recipient, and subject, and **which third party stores an exact copy of the email message for a least a period of time specified by the sender for the purpose of archiving the sender's email message**, wherein the third party sends an **acknowledgement** of the email message it has received to the sender and at least one addressee **notifying the addressee that the email message is waiting for the intended recipient at the third party's internet website.**

The method of amended claim 1 of Applicant's pending application reads as follows:

The method for **registering and certifying an electronic message**, said system and method further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, **a means to register said electronic message**, the system and method comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; **said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said client in said registration account; said processing**

unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

Applicant submits there exist no correlation or similarities between the method disclosed in the Applicant's claim 1, and the method claimed in the Sykes claim 1, with the sole exception of accessing a website for services.

The method disclosed in Applicant's claim 1 comprises a client sending either a registered or certified email message through a third party provider. Said third party provider sends the email message directly to the intended recipient. Said third party provider verifies the date the email message was sent and the date the email message was delivered to the intended recipient. Said third party provider verifies the date sent data and data received data in the form of a confirmation record. Said confirmation record is sent to the client from the third party provider. Said confirmation record is archived by the third party provider.

The method disclosed in Sykes claim 1 comprises a client sending an email message to a third party provider. Said third party provider stores an exact copy of the email message, for a predetermined time, as determined by the client. Said third party provider notifies the intended recipient that an email message is waiting for the intended recipient on the third party provider's

website. Said intended recipient accesses the third party provider's website to retrieve the email message. Said third party provider notifies the client that the email message has been retrieved by the intended recipient.

Applicant's claim 1 does not disclose a method of sending a "verifiable" email message by storing an exact copy of an email message received from a client for retrieval by an intended recipient, per the method disclosed in claim 1 Sykes. The method of verification disclosed in Sykes claim 1 is limited to storing an exact copy of the email message for a predetermined time.

The method of verification disclosed in Applicant's claim 1 is a client either registering an email or certifying an email through the means of the invention. Per Applicant's specification, which describes in detail the method of claim 1, these services are analogous to services offered by the United States postal service (USPS), wherein a client may register a letter, certify delivery of a letter, request a return receipt, among other services. The USPS does store an exact copy of a client's hard copy letter as a means to verify delivery and receipt services. In the preferred embodiment of Applicant's claim 1, the present invention creates a confirmation record that contains data of delivery of the email message and data of when the intended recipient received the email message. The confirmation record is the means by which the email message is verified. The confirmation record of the pending application does not contain an exact copy of the email message, nor does claim 1 disclose storing an exact copy of the email message.

Moreover, Applicant's claim 1 does not disclose a method of notifying the intended recipient that an email message is waiting for intended recipient on its website by sending an acknowledgement to the sender and intended recipient, per the method disclosed in Sykes.

Nor does Applicant's claim 1 disclose a method that the email message is made available to the intended recipient by said intended recipient accessing its website for retrieval. Applicant's claim 1 discloses a method, that after client selects either registering or certifying an email message, the email message is resent directly to intended recipient by way of the third party provider.

Nor does Applicant's claim 1 disclose a method of storing an exact copy of the email message for a predetermined period of time, as selected by the client, for archival. Applicant's claim 1 discloses a method of archiving the confirmation record in its email database.

CONCLUSION CLAIM 1 IN VIEW OF SYKES

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby a client may send either a registered or a certified email message using a third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the email message is sent directly to the intended recipient from the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider tracks the date the email message was sent, and the date that the email message was received by the intended recipient. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider creates a confirmation record that comprises the date sent data and the date received data. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the client receives a copy of the confirmation record from the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the confirmation record is archived for future use and retrieval. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 1 is patentable over Sykes.

With regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner withdraw its objection and that Applicant's claim 1, as amended, be allowed per the arguments put forth above.

CLAIM 15 IN VIEW OF SYKES

In reference to Applicant's claim 15, Examiner states that Sykes discloses a method and system for archiving, registering, and verifying electronic communications transmitted between clients and recipients via a network (i.e. Internet), (abstract and paragraph [0004], lines 1-13).

Examiner states that Sykes discloses the third party archiving and verification provider system to comprise:

* A system and method for registering and certifying an electronic message, the system and method further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website (i.e. third party archiving and verification website, Figures 4-22), a processing unit (i.e. third party archiving and verification server), an email database, the means (i.e. third party archiving and verification server) to register the electronic message, (abstract; paragraph [0004], lines 1-13; and paragraph [0038], line to paragraph [0040], line 17), the system and method comprising the steps of:

- The client accessing the website and establishing a registration account; the processing unit assigning a code (i.e. account ID) to the registration account of the client, (paragraph [0048], line 1 to paragraph [0049], line 16 and Figure 4); and «

The processing unit receiving the electronic message, the electronic message being from the client; the processing unit storing information about the electronic message and the registration account in the email database; the processing unit resending the electronic message to the intended recipient as identified by the client in the registration account; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was sent by the processing unit; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit creating a confirmation record (i.e. message table entry) that comprises the date the electronic message was sent to the intended recipient, and the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit sending the client a copy of the confirmation record (Figure 26); and the processing unit storing information about the confirmation record and the registration account in the email database,

(paragraph [0038], line 1 to [0047], line 12; paragraph [0059], line 1 to paragraph [0061], line S; and paragraph [0065], lines 9-13).

Applicant traverses. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's above referenced argument with regard to Applicant's claim 15 has been rendered moot, per the arguments put forth with respect to claim 1 above. Sykes' claims, as amended, do not disclose the foregoing method cited by the Examiner.

Moreover, Applicant submits that claim 15 of the pending application is novel vis-à-vis Sykes because it comprises an anonymous email client. Sykes fails to disclose any method of sending a verifiable email message that comprises using an anonymous client.

Specifically, Applicant's claim 15, as amended, discloses:

The method for registering and certifying an electronic message, said method further **comprising an anonymous client**, an intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, a means to register said electronic message, the method comprising the steps of: **said anonymous client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account**; said processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said anonymous client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said anonymous client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; **said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said anonymous client**

in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit notifying said intended recipient that said electronic message has been sent on behalf of said anonymous client; said intended recipient choosing to post a reply for said client; said processing unit creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent to said intended recipient, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said reply posted for said anonymous client; said processing unit sending said anonymous client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

CONCLUSION OF CLAIM 15 IN VIEW OF SYKES

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby an anonymous client may send either a registered or a certified email message using a third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the email message from the anonymous client is sent directly to the intended recipient from the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider tracks the date the email message was sent, and the date that the email message was received by the intended recipient. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider creates a confirmation record that comprises the date sent data and the date received data. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the anonymous client receives a copy of the confirmation record from the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the confirmation record is archived for future use and retrieval. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider notifies the intended recipient that the electronic message has been sent on behalf of the anonymous client, and whereby the third party provider identifies itself as the sender. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the intended recipient may choose to post a reply email message for the anonymous client, using the third party provider as

an intermediary. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the confirmation record comprises the reply email message posted for the anonymous client from the intended recipient, and whereby said confirmation record is sent to the anonymous client. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 15 is patentable over Sykes.

With regard to claim 15, in view of Sykes, Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner withdraw its objection and that Applicant's claim 15, as amended, be allowed per the arguments put forth above.

CLAIM 15 IN VIEW OF GABBER

While Sykes is silent on the issue of an anonymous client, Gabber discloses a method that comprises sending an **"alias source email message"**. Examiner argues in the first Office Action that Gabber discloses a method for transmitting electronic messages between an anonymous client and a recipient via a computer network (i.e. Internet), (abstract and column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 2)³. Applicant respectfully traverses. The "anonymous client" Examiner attributes

³ This portion of the Gabber specification reads: "To address the above-discussed deficiencies of the prior art, the present invention introduces a system for and method of, generating an alias source address for an electronic mail ("e-mail") message having a real source address and a destination address and a computer network, such as the Internet, including the system or the method. In one embodiment, the system includes an alias source address generator that employs the destination address to generate the alias source address. The system further includes an alias source address substitutor that substitutes the alias source address for the real source address. This removes the real source address from the e-mail message and thereby renders the sender, located at

per the method of Gabber is distinct from the "anonymous client" as disclosed in claim 15 of the pending application. Moreover, to be clear, Applicant respectfully submits that the Gabber specification at no point refers to an "anonymous client". Specifically, the Gabber specification consistently refers to an "alias source email address".⁴ Said alias email address having the function of replacing a verifiable email address for the purpose of deceiving the intended recipient of the origin of the email message.

The preferred embodiment of Gabber specifically discloses (column 9, line 9 – line 26):

A system for generating an alias source address for an electronic mail (e-mail)

message having a real source and a destination address, comprising:

an alias source address generator that employs said destination address to generate said alias source address;

an alias source address substitutor that substitutes said alias source address for said real source address, wherein said real source address is removed from said e-mail message; and

an e-mail filter configured to filter incoming reply mail by decoding a recipient address of said incoming reply mail to determine said destination address for which said alias source address was originally generated and validating said destination address against

the real source address, anonymous. The system further includes an e-mail forwarder that receives e-mail addressed to the alias source address, computes the real source address, and forwards the e-mail to the real source address."

⁴ For this reason, Applicant prefers to refer to Gabber as an "alias source email address". Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Gabber's specification supports the contention of an "anonymous client" per the method of claim 15 in the pending application.

a sender address of said incoming reply mail to ensure said incoming reply mail originated from said destination address.

The method of Gabber discloses **generating an alias source email address for an electronic mail message** having a real source address and a destination address. While providing the client with an alias source email address indirectly serves to shroud the client's identity, per the method disclosed by Gabber, **there is no correlation between the alias source email address generated and the third party provider as a method to identify the sender of the email message.**

In contrast, Applicant's claim 15 discloses a method whereby while the client remains anonymous, **the email address that sends the email message to the intended recipient is a disclosed identity that remains constant and verifiable** (i.e., not an alias source email address whereby the intended recipient has no way of deciphering the source, per the method of Gabber). Per the method disclosed in Applicant's claim 15, there exists no secret as to the source of the email message, the identity of the email address sender (the third party provider) is readily provided, **rather only the identity of the client utilizing the third party provider is withheld from the intended recipient.**

By way of example, Applicant's third party provider may be a company named "Verifx" with a fixed URL and address, along with other fixed contact information (street address, telephone number). **Said intended recipient would receive an email message from Verifx, clearly identifying Verifx as the originator of the email message.** Said email message from Verifx further contains

a disclosure that Verifx is sending the email message on behalf of a client that wishes to remain anonymous. The Verifx email message further contains any information necessary to identify itself as the source to the intended recipient, and to contact the company, if necessary. The identity of the sender is not shrouded, per the method of Gabber.

Examiner cites that Gabber discloses a notifying (i.e. substituted real source address with alias address consisting of a printable string of characters) the intended recipient that the electronic message has been sent on behalf of the anonymous client, (column 6, line 41 to column 7, line 6); and that the intended recipient may choose to post a reply for the anonymous client, (column 8, lines 27-50). Applicant respectfully traverses. With respect to Examiner's position that Gabber discloses notifying the intended recipient that an electronic message has been sent on behalf of the anonymous client, (column 6, line 41 to column 7, line 6), Applicant respectfully submits that the Gabber specification fails to disclose such a method.

The prior art cited by the Examiner (Gabber, column 6, line 41 to column 7, line 6) specifically reads as follows:

The method 300 ends in an end step 370, derivation of the alias source address having been accomplished. As with all of the other steps 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, the step 360 is unnecessary, unless the desired result is an alias source address consisting of a printable string of characters.

The alias source address may then be substituted for the real source address, perhaps with an alias source address substitutor.

Employing the above-described exemplary method 300 to an e-mail message having a real source address of, for example, "foo_bar@bell-labs.com" and a destination address of "www.yahoo.com" can be converted to "wxOnlqlUUEXJxzwVSsfKgW". This can be pre-appended to the domain name and top-level domain of an exemplary remailer to yield: "wxOnlqlUUEXJxzwVSsfKgW@lpwa.com", a destination-address-specific, SMTP-valid, alias source address.

Employing a less complex method wherein the compressing, hashing, appending and encrypting, as set forth in the method 300 above, do not occur can yield different results. For example, an e-mail message having a real source address of, for example, "foo_bar@bell-labs.com" and a destination address of "www.yahoo.com" can be converted to "foo_bar.bell-labs.com.www.yahoo.com" (nothing more than a trivial string concatenation). This can be pre-appended to the domain name and top-level domain of an exemplary remailer to yield: "www.yahoo.com.foo_bar.bell-labs.com@lpwa.com". This far less complex (and less secure) method falls well within the broad scope of the present invention, as well. Note that the steps set forth in the method 300 are not employed in the less complex method.

The foregoing method disclosed by Gabber does not "notify" the intended recipient that said intended recipient has received a message on behalf of an anonymous client. It may be self-evident to the intended recipient that the source email address has been morphed to conceal the identity of the sender, per the method of Gabber, but the **foregoing method does not constitute notification as disclosed in the method of Applicant's claim 15, whereby the intended**

recipient receives an email message from the third party provider, clearly disclosing that the third party provider is sending an email message on behalf of an anonymous client.

Likewise, Examiner submits that Gabber discloses a method whereby the intended recipient may choose to post a reply for the anonymous client, (column 8, lines 27-50). Applicant submits that while the recipient may respond to an alias source email message by hitting the reply button, the response email message must first pass a check sum to qualify the response, before the email message response will be received. **Moreover, the intended recipient is remains unable to decipher to whom the response is directed, other than to an alias source email address.** The originator of the email message to whom the response is directed remains a secret or unidentifiable. The method disclosed in Applicant's claim 15 clearly identifies to whom the response is directed to, the verifiable third party provider, and requires no qualification that the response email message from the intended recipient satisfy a check sum test in order to be received.

CONCLUSION CLAIM 15 IN VIEW OF GABBER

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method that comprises an anonymous client. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby an anonymous client may send either a registered or a certified email message using a third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider tracks the date the email message was sent, and the date that the email message was received by the intended recipient. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider creates a confirmation record that comprises the date sent data and the date received data. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the anonymous client receives a copy of the confirmation record from the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the confirmation record is archived for future use and retrieval. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider notifies the intended recipient that the email message has been sent on behalf of the anonymous client by the third party provider. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider clearly identifies itself as the sender of the email message, with a verifiable, constant email address, along

with other identifying information. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the intended recipient may choose to post a reply email message for the anonymous client, using the third party provider as an intermediary, and whereby the response email message need not satisfy a check sum test. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

Applicant submits that Gabber fails to disclose a method whereby the confirmation record comprises the reply email message posted for the anonymous client from the intended recipient, and whereby said confirmation record is sent to the anonymous client. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Gabber and that claim 15 is patentable over Gabber.

With regard to claim 15, in view of Gabber, Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner withdraw its objection and that Applicant's claim 15, as amended, be allowed per the arguments put forth above.

CLAIM 29 IN VIEW OF SYKES

In reference to claim 29, Examiner cites that Sykes discloses a method and system for verifying the identity of an intended recipient of an electronic message, in order to facilitate secure communication between clients and recipients via a network (i.e. internet), (abstract and paragraph

[0005], lines 1-22). Examiner states that Sykes discloses the third party archiving and verification provider system to comprise:

- A system and method for registering and certifying an electronic message, the system and method further comprising a client, an intended recipient, a website (i.e. third party archiving and verification website, Figures 4-22), a processing unit (i.e. third party archiving and verification server), an email database, a means (i.e. third party archiving and verification server) to register the electronic message, the system and method, (abstract; paragraph [0004], lines 1-13; and paragraph [0038], line to paragraph [0040], line 17), comprising the steps of:

The client accessing the website and establishing a registration account; the processing unit assigning a code (i.e. account ID) to the registration account of the client, (paragraph [004\$], line 1 to paragraph [0049], line 16 and Figure 4);

- The processing unit receiving the electronic message, the electronic message being from the client; the processing unit storing information about the electronic message and the registration account in the email database; the processing unit resending the electronic message to the intended recipient as identified by the client in the registration account; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was sent by thG processing unit; the processing unit tracking the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit creating a confirmation record (i.e. message table entry) that comprises the date the electronic message was sent and the date the electronic message was received by the intended recipient; the processing unit sending the client a copy of the

confirmation record (Figure 26); and the processing unit storing information about the confirmation record and the registration account in the email database, (paragraph [0038], line 1 to [0047], line 12; paragraph [0059], line 1 to paragraph [0061], line S; and paragraph [0065], lines 9-13); and

- The processing unit notifying the intended recipient that the processing unit is holding the electronic message pending verification of the identity of the intended recipient; obtaining verification information of the identity of the intended recipient, (paragraph [0005], lines 1-22; and paragraph [0063], lines 1-30).

Applicant traverses. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's above referenced argument with regard to Applicant's claim 29 has been rendered moot, per the same arguments put forth with respect to claim 1 above. Sykes' claims, as amended, do not disclose the foregoing method of identity verification cited by the Examiner; said method being cancelled by agent for Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes, as amended, fails to disclose the following method as disclosed in Applicant's specification, as disclosed in claim 29:

The method for **verifying the identity of the intended recipient of a registered or certified electronic message**, said method further comprising a client, said intended recipient, a local computer system, a website, a processing unit, an email database, a **means to verify said identity of said intended recipient**, the means to register said electronic message, said method comprising the steps of: said client using said local computer system accessing said website and establishing a registration account; said

processing unit assigning a code to said registration account of said client; said processing unit receiving said electronic message, said electronic message being from said client; said processing unit storing information about said electronic message and said registration account in said email database; said processing unit **notifying said intended recipient that said processing unit is holding said electronic message pending verification of said identity of said intended recipient; obtaining verification information of said identity of said intended recipient;** said processing unit resending said electronic message to said intended recipient as identified by said client in said registration account; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was sent by said processing unit; said processing unit tracking the date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient; said processing unit **creating a confirmation record that comprises said date said electronic message was sent, and said date said electronic message was received by said intended recipient, and said verification information of said identity;** said processing unit sending said client a copy of said confirmation record; and said processing unit storing information about said confirmation record and said registration account in said email database.

CONCLUSION CLAIM 29 IN VIEW OF SYKES

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method for verifying the identity of the intended recipient of a registered or certified email message. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method that comprises a means to verify said identity of said intended recipient, and the means to register said email message. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider notifies the intended recipient that the third party provider is holding an email message pending verification of the identity of the intended recipient. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider notifies the intended recipient what the verification information comprises, and the means for the intended recipient to submit the verification information. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the verification information further comprises a digital certificate, or biometric information including one of the group of a thumbprint, a voiceprint, a retinal scan or a graphical, hand-written signature, or a personal identity paper, or a drivers license or a passport. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider obtains the verification information of said intended recipient, and upon receipt, the third party provider resends the email message to the intended recipient, as identified by the client. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

Applicant submits that Sykes fails to disclose a method whereby the third party provider's website further comprises a means for the client to select the identity verification services, and to submit the email message in conjunction with the verification services. As such, Applicant submits that its method is not anticipated by Sykes and that claim 29 is patentable over Sykes.

With regard to claim 29, Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner withdraw its objection and that Applicant's claim 29, as amended, be allowed per the arguments put forth above.

DEPENDENT CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing arguments with respect to independent claims 1, 15 and 29 establish sufficient basis for the objections to be withdrawn and that claims 1, 15, and 29 be allowed.

In reference to claims 2-14, these claims depend from independent claim 1, which Applicant believes to be allowable in view of the arguments above. As such, applicant submits that claims 2-14 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

In reference to claims 16-28, these claims depend from independent claim 15, which Applicant believes to be allowable in view of the arguments above. As such, applicant submits that claims 16-28 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from claim 15.

In reference to claims 30-36, 38-44, and 45, these claims depend from independent claim 29, which Applicant believes to be allowable in view of the arguments above. As such, applicant

submits that claims 30-36, 38-44, and 45 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from claim 29.

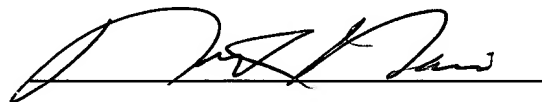
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the stated grounds of rejection in the pending claims have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 310-739-9996 or 310-665-0111.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Lauren', written over a horizontal line.

M. Lauren (Agent for Inventor)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Nassiri', written over a horizontal line.

Nick Nassiri (Applicant/Inventor)